# ABSTRACT

Smart-Man's Layer 4 (SML4) is a process in which the TCP/IP stack is manipulated on a set of computer systems to enable Layer-4 switching (load balancing and failover) of a set of IP Addresses without the use of an expensive dedicated, specialized Layer-4 switch dedicated to performing the Layer-4 switching. SML4 supports any application which uses TCP stream sockets for data transfer. SML4 requires no special or non-standard handling of packets on the network switches the systems are connected to.